5: Pollard M-5 (no date) 1921 AE4 Lolo AE4

000 ounces each, are much prized, and are carried great distances, finding a ready sale even in the province of Szechuan, where sugar-cane is one of the chief products of this, China's richest and largest province. Some peculiarity in the cane of Szechuan prevents this brown sugar being made, and by a kind of carrying-coals-to-Newcastle and finding-a-ready-market style, the coarse brown sugar of Yunnan is eagerly bought up right in the midst of the immense cane-fields of the sister province. The leaves of the dwarf oaks are used to wrap up the little brown cakes of sugar.

In still another province bordering on Yunnan there is a silkworm which feeds on these leaves, and from the cocoons of these worms is produced a very strong silk, nearly as good as, but hardly so highly finished as, the famous Shantungs so well known in Europe. Some of this silk we have sent to friends in England, who have made it into children's dresses, and it has been almost impossible to wear these dresses out.

231 291 We found a large number of sheep grazing on the Nosu hills, and among them a number of black ones. These black sheep formed quite a striking feature on the hill-sides. From the wool of these sheep the Nosu make their famous felt capes. The Yunnan Chinese and the other aborigines constantly wear felt capes in winter or rainy weather, but theirs are of a much coarser make than those worn by the independent Nosu. The Chinese capes are usually white or dyed blue. The Nosu capes are always a blackish brown, very much the colour of walnut stain.

462 482 As we were walking on towards our night's resting-place we passed several girls and women, carrying water. A large •312 tub is carried on the back by a rope over the shoulders, the

5: Pollard M-5 (no date) 1921 AE4 Lolo AE4

tub resting on the small of the back. This water-carrying business is one of the heaviest burdens the women have to bear, and often the distance from the house to the water is very great. I have known some places where the girls have to travel nearly two hours before they are back home with the tub of water. They carry it very dexterously, scarcely ever spilling any of the water over the rim of the tub. Frequently, however, there is a leak, and then the clothes get wet, of which no notice is taken until rheumatic or other pains warn the water-carriers that something has gone wrong. A village near a constantly running spring has a great advantage over one distant from water. I have known girls base their "yes" or "no," in reply to a proposal, on the nearness or distance of the water-supply at the village of the would-be bridegroom. The man who looks after my horses was the second to propose in one day to his present wife. The girl accepted the first, not knowing that there was a second proposal to come the same day. When the second one reached her she immediately realised that the water-supply of the second man's village was close to the houses and she bitterly regretted that she had so readily agreed to the first proposal. In some way or other she broke off the first engagement, and went to marry the man whose chief asset was the near water-supply of his village. Possibly he does not feel flattered when he remembers how he managed to win his wife; or, possibly, he never thinks anything about it, content with things as they are; or again, he may put down his success over his rival to his superior charms. Who knows? Who dares to be dogmatic in matter concerning a man and a girl and the great elusive mystery of the latter's heart and attractive ways?